

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this amendment, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

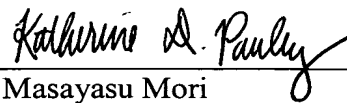
The present amendment was required by the Office of Patent Publications to address minor informalities in the specification. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 is respectfully requested, as provided in MPEP § 714.16(e).

The present amendment addresses minor informalities in the specification, and adds no new matter. As the present amendment merely removes references to specific claim numbers, these amendments to the specification do not require any additional search or examination. Additionally, as the claims have not been amended, the claims remain patentable. Finally, this amendment has been presented as soon as the Applicants were made aware of the informalities addressed by the present amendments.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and the present amendments, entry of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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